



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FEBRUARY 3, 2004**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SPRINGFIELD MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF STOLEN FIREARMS**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for illegally possessing a stolen firearm.

**Christopher Wells**, 18, of Springfield, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to five years and three months in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 20, 2003, **Wells** pleaded guilty to illegally possessing a stolen firearm. By pleading guilty, **Wells** admitted that he was in possession of two stolen firearms, a Colt .32 caliber semi-automatic handgun and a Jennings .22 caliber pistol, between Dec. 10, 2002, and Dec. 12, 2002, in Greene County, Mo. The firearms were stolen during the burglaries of two separate Springfield residences.

**Wells** was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on May 7, 2003, in Springfield.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney James J. Kelleher. It was investigated by the Springfield, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)